

PUBLIC SAFETY & PARKS

FUNDING FOR THE FUTURE

2022 BALLOT PROPOSALS



Agenda

- What is on the ballot?
- How did we get here?
- What are we trying to accomplish?
 - Funding for Fire, Police, and Parks
 - Financial sustainability
 - Minimize burden on Wyoming residents & businesses
- How do I learn more?



What's on the ballot?

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#1

Allow the City to levy an income of up to 1% on residents and business and up to 0.5% on non-residents who work in the City of Wyoming

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#2

Reduce the City of Wyoming portion of the property tax millage by more than half, from 11.9 mills to 5.0 mills

How did we get here?

2000-2007

- Two millage proposals fail
- 58 positions eliminated
- Early retirement offered
- Retirement benefits for new employees cut

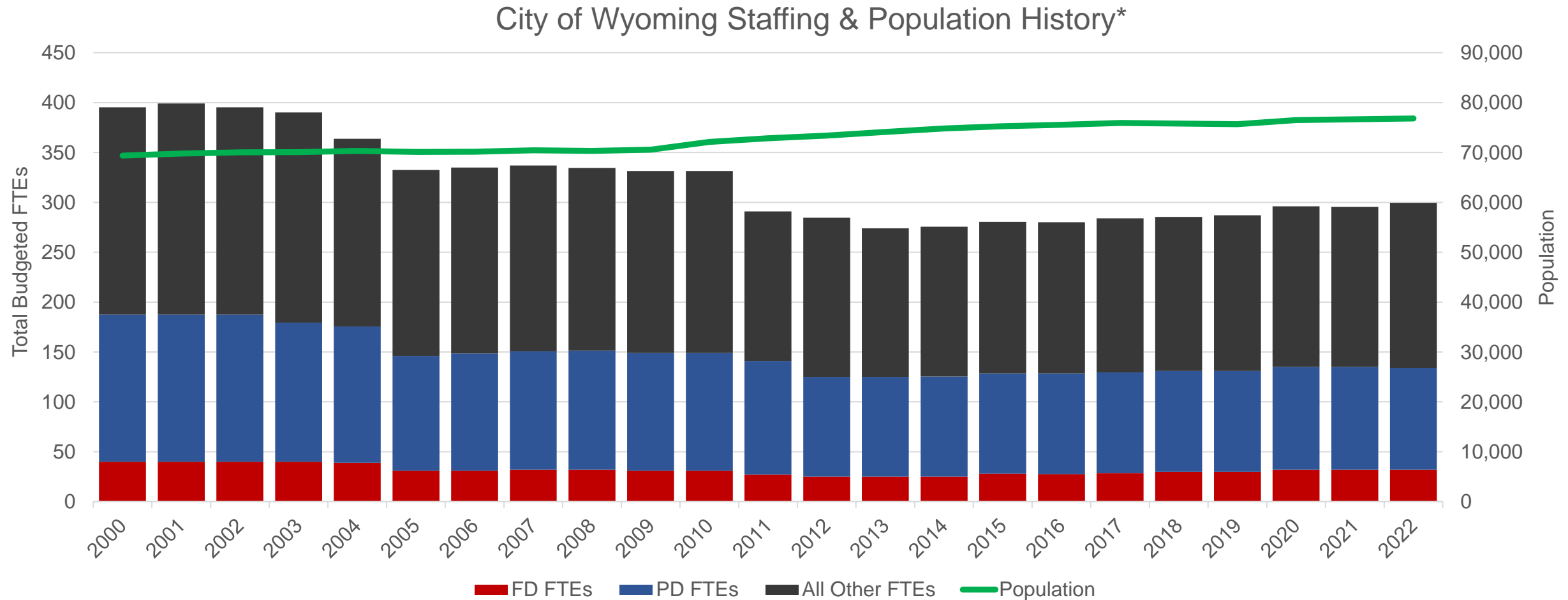
2008-2013

- Great Recession
 - Michigan unemployment rate reaches 14%
 - \$430 million (18%) drop in City's Taxable Value
- City largest taxpayer closed
 - 1,500 local jobs lost
- Public Safety millage passes (+1.25 mills)
- General operations millage proposal fails
- Privatized dispatch services (11 positions eliminated)

2014-Present

- Paid off all general fund debt
- Proposal allowing library capital funding to be used for parks improvements passes
- Public Safety millage permanently renewed (no new revenue)
- COVID-19 pandemic
- 3-year COPS grant
- 7 unfunded firefighters, 4 unfunded officers added

How did we get here?



*Excluding positions funded by Water & Sewer revenue

What these proposals accomplish



Goal #1

Provide future funding to support critical public safety and parks needs.



Goal #2

Make the City more financially sustainable by diversifying revenue sources.



Goal #3

Minimize the overall tax burden on Wyoming residents and businesses.

Goal #1: Provide Funding for Critical Needs

Fire

Over the last 20 years, the number of full-time firefighters has been reduced due to budget constraints, but the needs of our community have increased.



Police

Current staffing does not allow for enough proactive activities like community outreach, traffic enforcement, and data-driven decision making.



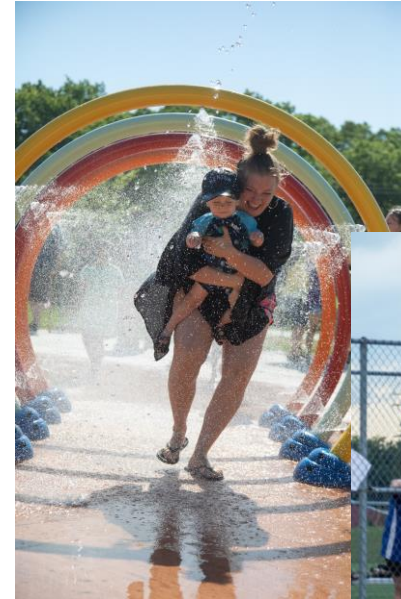
Parks

The current property tax millage, which has not changed since it was approved by voters in 1995, does not provide enough funding to maintain our parks.



Parks Department Needs

- A citizen-led initiative resulted in the current millage being approved in 1995. It has not increased since
 - There is no capacity within the dedicated Parks Millage for capital investment
- The city manages 21 parks, almost 700 acres of park land
 - City parks that were built 25+ years ago are now in need of capital investment to maintain current service levels



Parks Department Outcomes

- Total Investment: \$600,000
- \$600,000 annually for capital investment in Wyoming parks
- Outcomes
 - Full funding for Parks Capital Plan
 - Maintain parks system



Police Department Needs

- There are 45 fewer employees in the Police Department now than there were in 2000.
- Violent crime has increased
 - Record number of homicides and shots fired calls in 2020
- Wyoming ranked 5th in traffic fatalities in 2020
 - 35 traffic fatalities between 2016-2020
- Relationships are key to policing
 - Wyoming has only three dedicated Community Services Officers for the entire city



Police Department Outcomes

- Total Investment: \$2.1 Million
- 13 Additional Officers & 1 Crime Analyst
- Outcomes
 - Increased number of officers on each shift
 - Time for proactive activities like traffic enforcement and neighborhood patrols
 - Data-driven decision making



Fire Department Needs

- There are eight fewer Fire Department Employees now than there were in 2000
- There are not enough Wyoming firefighters on duty on any shift to safely enter a structure fire
- Two of the four fire stations in Wyoming are unstaffed
- Wyoming staffing levels are drastically below benchmark communities



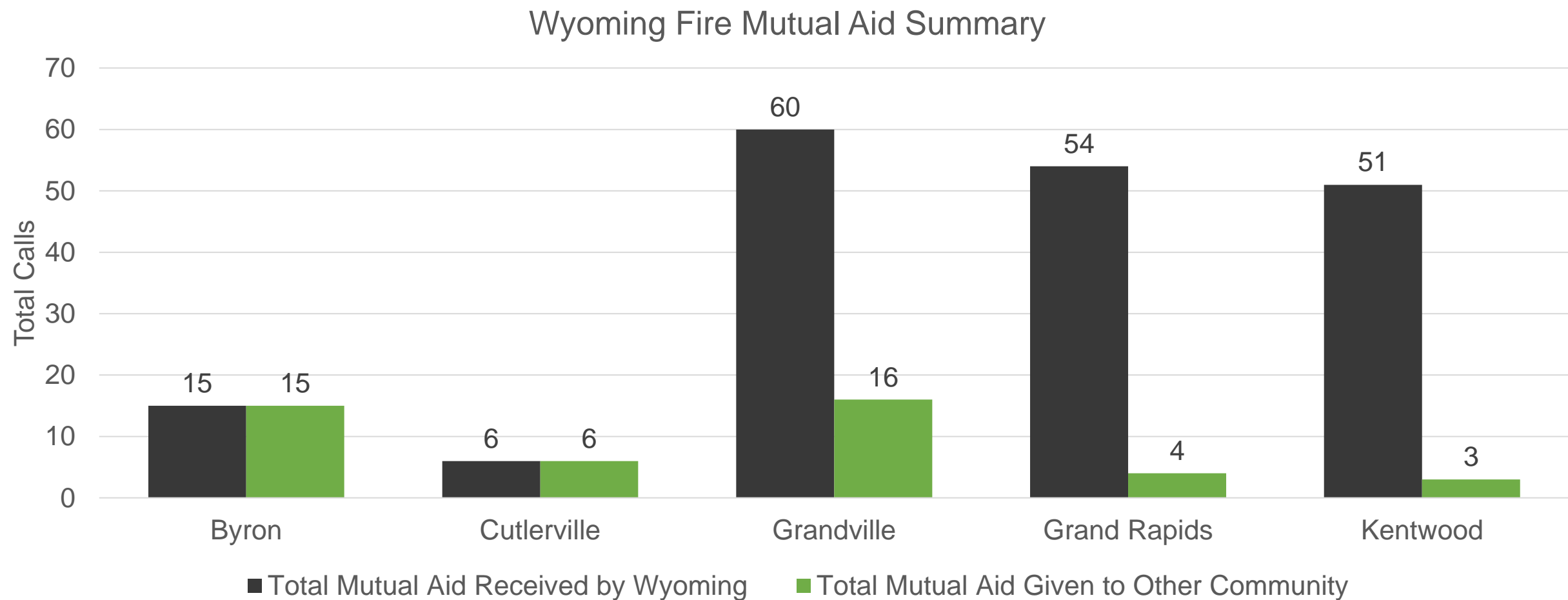
Fire Department Needs

City	Population	Firefighters	Firefighters per 1,000 population	2021 Calls for Service	Calls for service per firefighter
Lansing	118,210	119	1.01	25,112	211
Grand Rapids	201,013	195	0.97	24,001	123
Kentwood	51,898	42	0.81	5,082	121
Portage	46,445	30	0.65	4,613	154
Muskegon	36,565	21	0.57	5,941	283
Holland	33,216	18	0.54	3,980	221
Wyoming (Current)	76,501	27	0.35	7,155	265

Fire Department Needs

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Lansing	118,210	119	1.01	25,112	211
Grand Rapids	201,013	195	0.97	24,001	123
Kentwood	51,898	42	0.81	5,082	121
Wyoming (Proposed)	76,501	54	0.71	7,155	133
Portage	46,445	30	0.65	4,613	154
Muskegon	36,565	21	0.57	5,941	283
Holland	33,216	18	0.54	3,980	221

Mutual Aid Comparison



Excludes automatic aid calls
Data shown represents calendar year 2021

Fire Department Outcomes

- Total Investment: \$3.3 Million
- 27 Additional Firefighters
- Outcomes
 - 24/7 staffing at all four Wyoming fire stations
 - Reduced response times
 - Increased number of firefighters on each shift
 - Reduced reliance on other communities



Goal #2: Make the City More Financially Sustainable

Diversified Revenue Sources

- Wyoming relies primarily on property taxes to support core services.
- By adding an income tax, we can add another revenue stream, protecting the city against adverse impacts of another drop in housing prices.

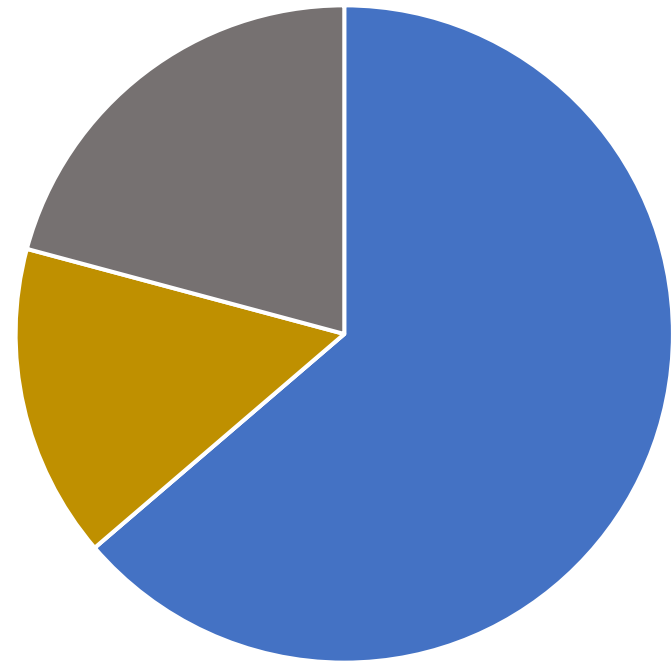
Long Term Growth

- State law is designed to limit growth in property tax revenue. The State of Michigan has consistently underfunded cities' shared revenue.
- Income tax is not subject to these same limitations.

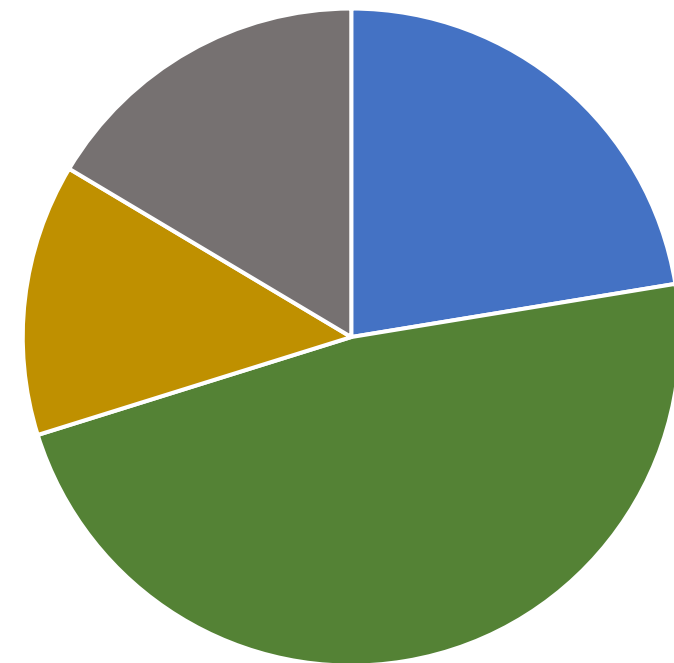
Flexibility

- The current millage is made up of nine separate millages that can only be spent on specific things.
- Income tax will be general revenue to the city.

Diversifying Revenue Sources



Current*	Revenue Source	Proposed**
64%	Property Taxes	22%
0%	Income Taxes	48%
15%	State Shared Revenue	13%
21%	Other Sources of Revenue	16%



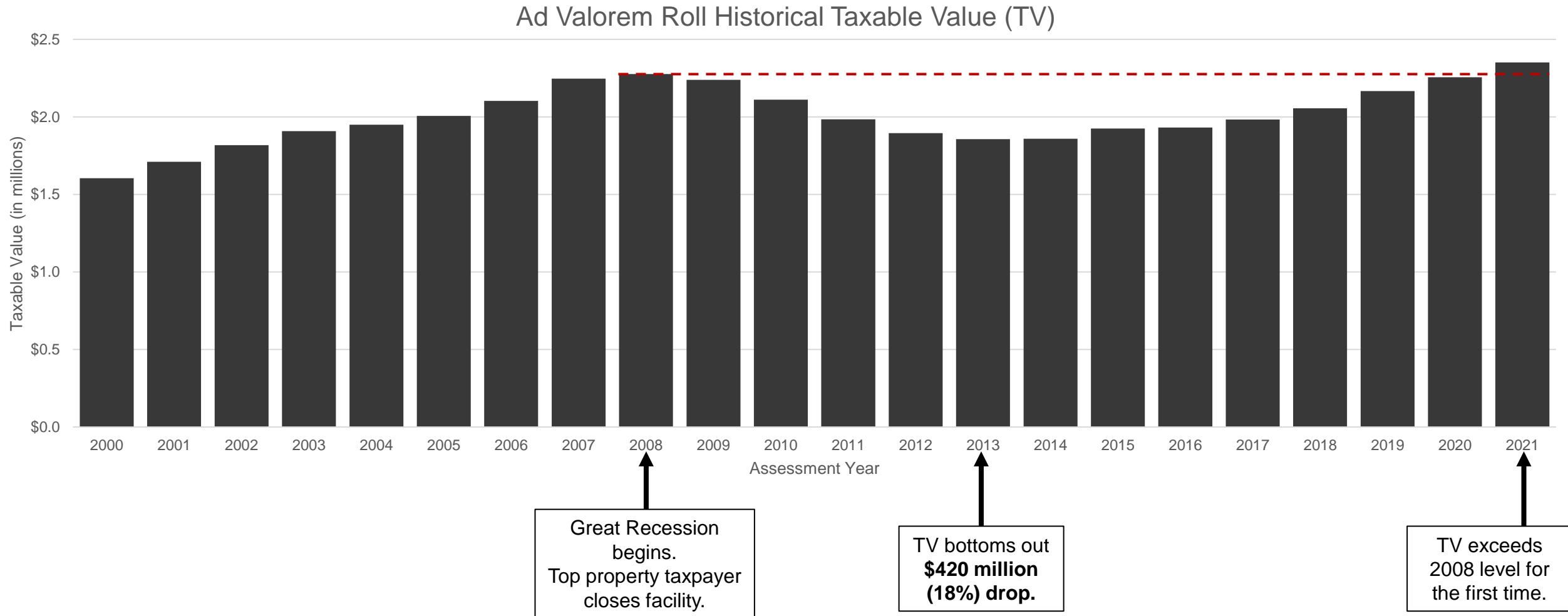
*Current scenario includes the Adopted FY22 Budget revenue from all property-tax supported funds, excluding transfers between funds.

**Proposed scenario includes projected revenue in FY25 and is subject to change.

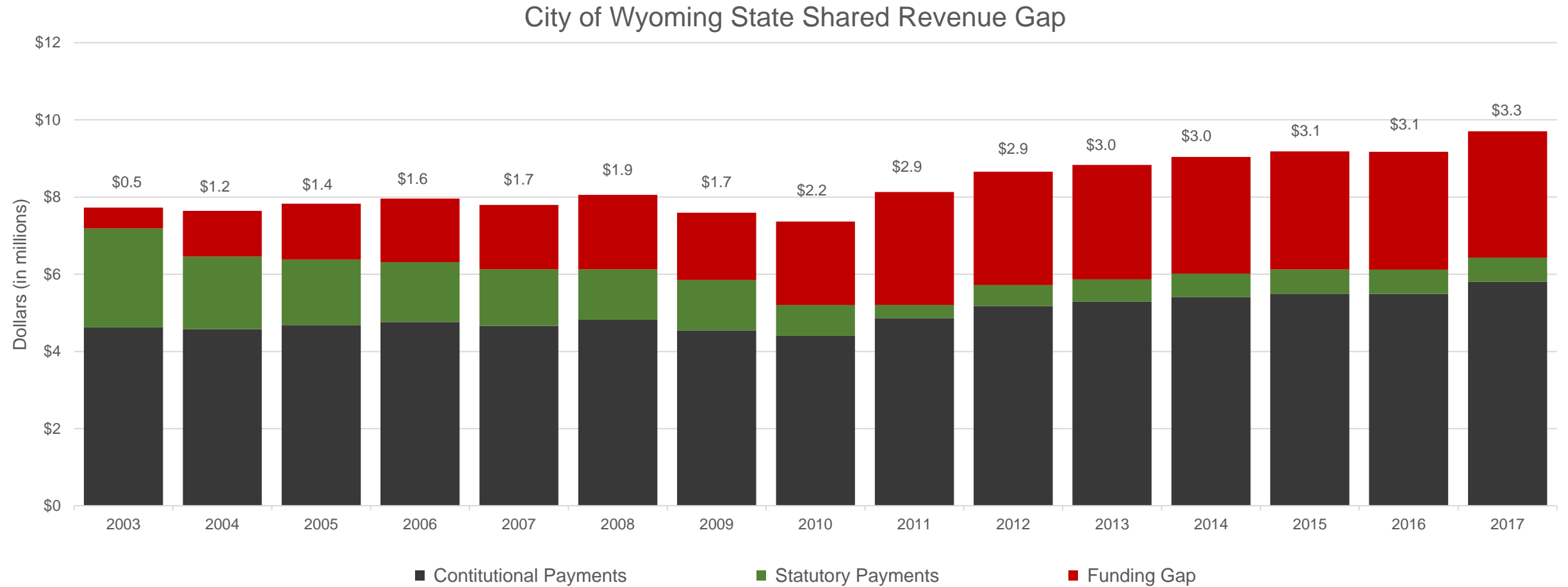
Property Taxes – Current Dedicated Millages



Property Taxes



State Shared Revenue



Source: Michigan Municipal League

Goal #3: Minimize the overall tax burden on Wyoming residents and businesses

Payment from Non-Residents

- Non-residents do not pay taxes for police, fire, parks, public works and other services in Wyoming but benefit from them.
- Non-residents would pay an income tax to support the services that they utilize.

Equity Among Taxpayers

- Long-time property owners pay less than new property owners because state law limits growth on property taxes.
- The amount of income tax paid is based on the amount an individual earns.

Ability to Pay

- Property taxes and rent do not change based on an individual or family's ability to pay.
- An income tax is only assessed on earned income, so a change in pay means a change in taxes.

How does an income tax work?

- Income tax rate
 - 0.8% for Wyoming residents & businesses (max 1%)
 - 0.4% for non-residents (max 0.5%)
- \$2,000 deduction for each household member
- Social Security, disability, qualified pension distributions, qualified IRAs distributions, life insurance and annuities are **not** taxable income
- Your employer adjusts your withholding at the beginning of 2023

Income - deductions = taxable income

Taxable income X tax rate = taxes

How would this change my taxes?

Examples based on households earning \$60,000 annually residing at a property with a taxable value of \$100,000.

	Individual (Homeowner)	Family of four (Homeowner)	Retiree* (Homeowner)	Individual (Renter)	Family of four (Renters)	Retiree* (Renter)	Individual Non-resident
New 0.8% income tax	+\$464	+\$416	\$0	+\$464	+\$416	\$0	+\$232
6.9 mill drop in property tax**	-\$690	-\$690	-\$690	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net change	-\$226	-\$274	-\$690	+\$464	+\$416	\$0	+\$232

*Retiree example assumes that income comes from social security, qualified pension, annuity or IRA, all of which are non-taxable.

**The millage would be reduced over two years; 4.4 mills in 2023 and an additional 2.5 mills in 2024.

To learn how these proposals will change how much you pay in taxes to the City of Wyoming visit WyomingMI.Gov/IncomeTaxCalculator

Income Tax Compared to Property Tax

The alternative to the Funding for the Future proposals on the ballot in May would be to approve a 2.5 mill increase to the current 11.8 millage rate.

	Individual (Homeowner)	Family of four (Homeowner)	Retiree* (Homeowner)	Individual (Renter)	Family of four (Renters)	Retiree* (Renter)	Individual Non-resident
Current proposals to levy an income tax and decrease property taxes	-\$226	-\$274	-\$690	+\$464	+\$416	\$0	+\$232
Alternative: 2.5 mill increase in property taxes	+\$250	+\$250	+\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Retiree example assumes that income comes from social security, qualified pension, annuity or IRA, all of which are non-taxable.

**Examples based on households earning \$60,000 annually residing at a property with a taxable value of \$100,000.

What these proposals accomplish



Goal #1

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Goal #2

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Goal #3

Minimize the overall tax burden on Wyoming residents and businesses.

What do we get if these are approved?

Taken together, the proposals generate an additional **\$6 million** annually

Fire - \$3.3 Million

27 additional firefighters

Outcomes

- Increased number of firefighters on each shift
- 24/7 staffing at all four Wyoming fire stations
- Reduced response times
- Reduced reliance on other communities

Police - \$2.1 Million

13 additional officers & 1 crime analyst

Outcomes

- Increased number of officers on each shift
- Time for proactive activities like traffic enforcement and neighborhood patrols
- Data-driven decision making

Parks - \$600,000

\$600,000 annually for capital investment in Wyoming parks

Outcomes

- Full funding for Parks Capital Plan
- Maintain parks system

Want to Learn More?

Contact Us

FundingForTheFuture@WyomingMI.gov

Go Online

WyomingMI.gov/future

WyomingMI.gov/incometaxcalculator

Attend In-Person Public Meetings

Upcoming Public Meetings

1. **February 1st 7:00 p.m. at City Hall**
2. February 16th 7:00 p.m. at Senior Center
3. March 2nd 7:00 p.m. at Bayberry/Gezon Fire Station
4. March 9th 7:00 p.m. at Del Mar Community Room
5. March 15th 7:00 p.m. at Godwin Heights High School
6. March 24th 7:00 p.m. at City Hall
7. April 19th 6:00 p.m. at Wyoming Public Library

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